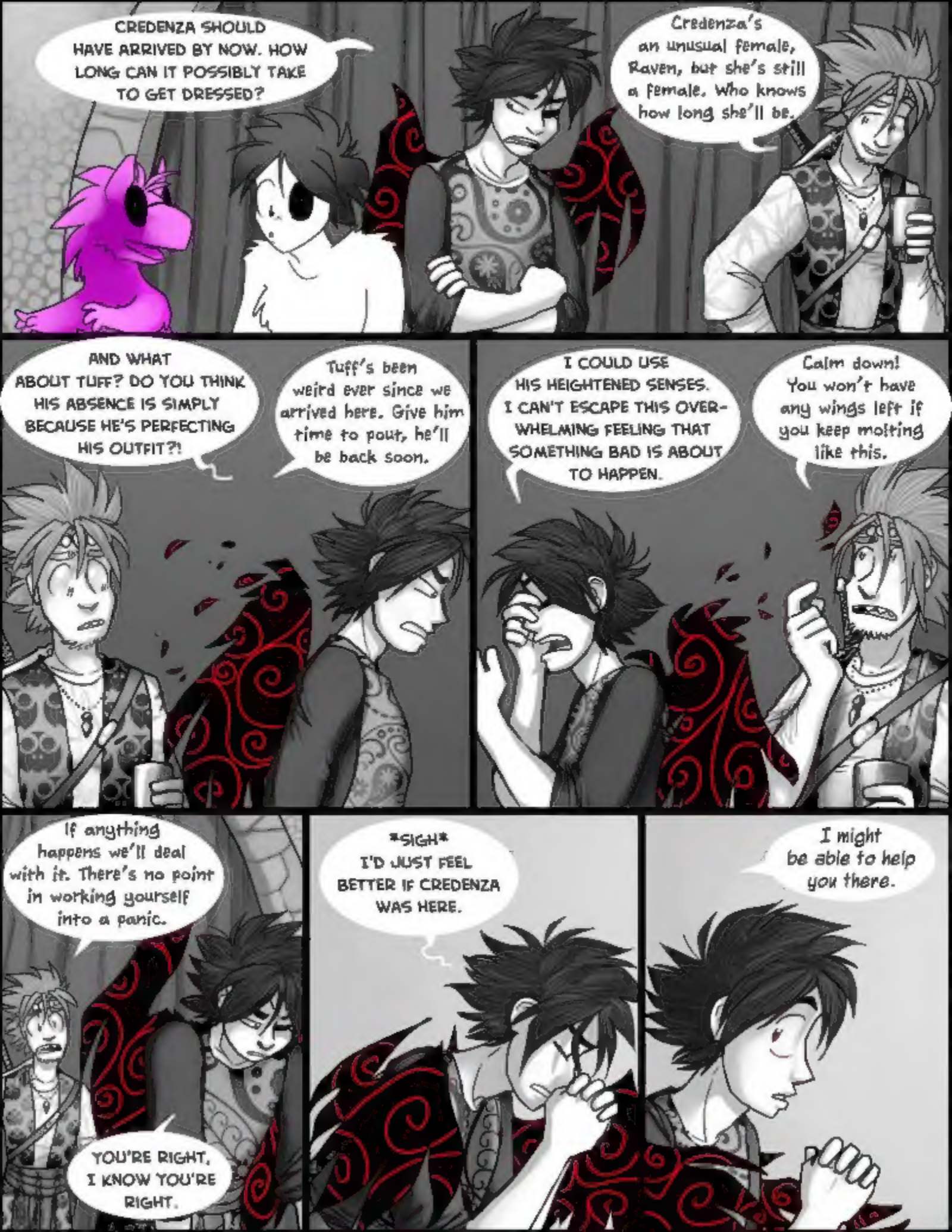
AHOY! OLLA! IT'S ME, LEWIS! WE NEED YOU TO SIGN THESE PAPERS FOR SAFE PASSAGE INTO THE CASTLE!
LEWIS PINTUR! IT FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR YEARS! ANOTHER DELIVERY OF FISH FOR THE KING?
JUST IN TIME TOO, LOOKS LIKE THE KING'S PREPARING FOR ANOTHER BIG PARTY.
THAT ISN'T LUKE DRIVING YOUR BOAT IS IT?
NOPE! THOUGHT I'D BRING LITTLE ALICE ALONG THIS TIME.
HEY THERE ALICE! LOOKING GOOD GIRL!
THANKS, OLLA!
SO WHAT'S GOING ON OLLA? THE KING'S ALL WORKED UP OVER SOMETHING.
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? NOBODY BOTHERS TO COME DOWN AND TELL ME.
KNOWING KING MIKEL IT COULD JUST BE A 'HAPPY TUESDAY' PARTY. SURE IS PRETTY THOUGH.
IT SURE IS. I'D HATE TO MISS OUT ON A PARTY LIKE THAT.

I'M GOING TO THE KING'S PARTY.
WHAT?!
ARE YOU INSANE?! WHAT IF SOMEONE CATCHES YOU?!
THE COOKS HAVE KNOWN ME SINCE I WAS A CHILD DELIVERING FISH TO THE CASTLE WITH FATHER. THEY'LL VOUCH FOR ME.
WHY DO YOU EVEN WANT TO GO? YOU DON'T LIKE FANCY PARTIES!
I KNOW, I JUST... FEEL DRAWN TO THE CASTLE TONIGHT.
LOOK, I'LL USE MY CONNECTIONS IN THE KITCHEN TO GET IN, JUST TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT BUT YOU NEVER ACTUALLY DO IT!
I LOVE YOU TOO LEWIS, BUH-BYE!
UGH. HOPEFULLY AFTER FIVE MINUTES SHE'LL REALIZE HOW BORING AND UNEVENTFUL FANCY PARTIES ARE AND LEAVE.

LOOK! LOOK! I THINK THOSE TWO ARE ABOUT TO FIGHT!
WHERE IS SHE?!


CREDENZA SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED BY NOW. HOW LONG CAN IT POSSIBLY TAKE TO GET DRESSED?
Credenza's an unusual female, Raven, but she's still a female. Who knows how long she'll be.
AND WHAT ABOUT TUFF? DO YOU THINK HIS ABSENCE IS SIMPLY BECAUSE HE'S PERFECTING HIS OUTFIT?!
Tuff's been weird ever since we arrived here. Give him time to pout, he'll be back soon.
I COULD USE HIS HEIGHTENED SENSES. I CAN'T ESCAPE THIS OVER-WHELMING FEELING THAT SOMETHING BAD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
Calm down! You won't have any wings left if you keep molting like this.
If anything happens we'll deal with it. There's no point in working yourself into a panic.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT.
SIGH I'D JUST FEEL BETTER IF CREDENZA WAS HERE.
I might be able to help you there.

Presenting the lovely lady, Credenza Black! All dolled up and ready for a party!
Come, let's go downstairs and meet with the guests. Perhaps the guards will have some word of 'Alice'.
Raven? Aren't you coming with us?
NO, I'LL BE WATCHING FROM THIS BALCONY FOR DANGER, GUARDING TIN-CAN AND THE BOOK.
Well, that's a pity. I had hoped to have the chance to dance with you.
Still, I know I won't have anything to worry about with a powerful spirit watching over us.
TCH... POWERFUL SPIRIT?
STARTING TO THINK THIS WHOLE 'HUMANITY' THING MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD, EH?
I'M SURE I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BUT YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE FANCY PARTIES...
I KNOW I DON'T! I JUST WANT TO CHECK IT OUT!
HEY! I GOT THE CLOTHES!
NOW BE CAREFUL. AVOID THE GUARDS, THEY KNOW MOST OF US BY SIGHT, THEY'LL SEE YOU'RE AN IMPOSTER.
I HEARD THAT THE PRINCE'S COUSINS HAD RETURNED TO THE CASTLE.
NO WAY! THE WERE-SHARKS? DO YOU THINK THEY'D COME TO THE PARTY?
OF COURSE! THEY'RE THE ONES HE'S THROWING THE PARTY FOR!
YOU GO OUT, DELIVER THESE DRINKS TO A TABLE, AND THEN COME STRAIGHT BACK HERE! NO DAWDLING! GOT IT?
NOD
BE SURE YOU DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH ANY-ONE!
AND DON'T EAT ANYTHING OR TALK TO ANYONE! DASH BACK AS SOON AS YOU CAN!
GUYS! I'LL BE FINE! I PROMISE!
HONESTLY, YOU'RE ACTING LIKE PEOPLE ARE LOOKING SPECIFICALLY FOR ME!

"SIGH"
Umm... excuse me?
GAH!
Eep!
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU! I WAS JUST-
No no no, it's okay. You don't have to cover your mouth.
You're the king's cousin, aren't you?
The were-shark.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CIRCUS SIDESHOW, GO TO MY COUSIN'S PARTY.
NO, DON'T GO! I DIDN'T COME TO INSULT YOU.
THE KING NOTICED YOU WEREN'T AT THE PARTY, AND HE ASKED THE SERVANTS TO FIND WHERE YOU'D GONE.
I WANTED THE TASK. I WANTED TO PROVE NOT EVERY-ONE IN QUILLOTIA HATES WERE-SHARKS.
I EVEN BROUGHT DRINKS FROM THE PARTY, IN CASE YOU WERE THIRSTY. I'D DO THE SAME FOR ANY GUEST OF THE CASTLE.
"SIGH" I GUESS I DO COME OFF VERY DEFENSIVE. AND I AM THIRSTY. I'M FINE WITH ANY-THING THAT ISN'T ALCOHOLIC.
BLIIPPIP
YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN WITH SOMETHING ON HIS MIND. DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?
NOT REALLY. THERE ISN'T MUCH TO TELL.
TEN MINUTES LATER...
IS IT REALLY SO HARD TO JUST BE THERE FOR YOUR SON? EVEN APPEARING AT A FEW BIRTHDAY PARTIES WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE! NOT THAT IT WOULD HAVE MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE. NO ONE EVER CAME TO MY PARTIES!

But you LOVE Booganoosh! Last night you ate two plates of it!
I JUST DON'T WANT ANY RIGHT NOW. MAYBE THE BABY ISN'T HUNGRY TODAY.
Booogaanoooosh!
STOP THAT.
I never saw the appeal of these finger foods. Any smaller and I wouldn't have to chew!
Me, I've always preferred something with a little meat... on it...
Alice?!
Wait! If she realizes I'm a sharkman she'll never give me a chance to convince her to come with us.
I need something to cover my mouth.
YOINK!

THERE! THE DRINKS ARE SET, SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SNEAK BACK TO-
OOF!
RILEY!
Alice! You remember me?
HAIR LIKE YOURS IS HARD TO FORGET. INTERESTING OUTFIT.
The latest fashion. As it happens I've been wanting to talk to you about something.
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TALK NOW. I'M NOT EXACTLY SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.
What? But-
I'M SORRY, I'VE GOT TO GO!
But you've got to stay! This is important!
STAY? I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T BE IN TOWN LONG SO IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO-
That was before I realized pirates were going to try and steal your soul!